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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of constant newness, in You all renewal abides and all hope originates. Help us to honor You with both our words and deeds. Give us the courage to help the less fortunate and to address the needs of those on life's margins. Make us unafraid to confront prejudice and pride, as You attune our spirits to Your truth and light.

Bless our Senators. Energize them until their presence radiates a light that no darkness can overcome. Give them wisdom and courage, vision and discipline for the right living of these days. Empower them to be kind to one another, forgiving and affirming each other.

We pray this in Your righteous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 12, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. FEINGOLD thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OBAMA). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as soon as we resume S. 1 in a few minutes, there will be a limited period of debate on two amendments—the Kerry amendment No. 1 relating to congressional pensions and the Vitter amendment No. 10 regarding civil penalties. These two amendments will be debated concurrently until 9:50 a.m.

The first rollcall vote will start at 9:50. We will have two rollcall votes this morning. If Members are interested in offering amendments today, I would suggest they talk to the bill managers during these votes, or Senator McCONNELL.

I remind everyone Monday is a holiday. We will have our first vote Tuesday at 5:30. It appears at this time there will be a series of votes at 5:30. So I hope we can move on down the road on this matter this morning. I am going to have some consultations with the Republican leader in a few minutes to see if we can figure out a way to end this matter as quickly as possible.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

ETHICS AND LOBBYING REFORM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, let me say, I echo the comments of the majority leader. We look forward to wrapping up this bill next week and passing it with a large bipartisan majority.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to provide greater transparency in the legislative process.

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 3, in the nature of a substitute.

Reid amendment No. 4 (to amendment No. 3), to strengthen the gift and travel bans.

DeMint amendment No. 11 (to amendment No. 3), to strengthen the earmark reform. (By 46 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 5), Senate earlier failed to table the amendment.)

DeMint amendment No. 12 (to amendment No. 3), to clarify that earmarks added to a conference report that are not considered by the Senate or the House of Representatives are out of scope.

DeMint amendment No. 14 (to amendment No. 3), to protect individuals from having their money involuntarily collected and used for lobbying by a labor organization.

Vitter/Inhofe modified amendment No. 9 (to amendment No. 3), to place certain restrictions on the ability of the spouses of Members of Congress to lobby Congress.

Vitter amendment No. 10 (to amendment No. 3), to increase the penalty for failure to comply with lobbying disclosure requirements.

Leahy/Pryor amendment No. 2 (to amendment No. 3), to give investigators and prosecutors the tools they need to combat public corruption.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S485